The Cary Arboretum

of The New York Botanical Garden

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Ten Years Toward Excellence

In the ten years of its existence, the New York Botanical Garden Cary Arboretum has progressed from a large acreage with miscellaneous farmhouses and outbuildings to a sophisticated center for ecological study and education, the first such institution at any of the world's great botanical gardens. Today there are major programs in urban forestry and in chemical mediation of plant-animal and plant-environment interactions.

These are complemented by other significant studies of plant diseases, plant form and function, and of the human consequences of ecosystem disruption. Visitor programs, innovative horticultural and exchange activities on a global scale, and full complement of formal educational programs, ranging from those for elementary school children to graduate and post-doctoral studies have also played major roles in the Arboretum's development.

"Inch by inch, row by row, gonna' make this garden grow...." Pete Seeger, after accepting a lifetime membership to the Arboretum, sang an appropriately touching song about the evolution of a garden.

To mark the accomplishments of the first ten years, nearly 200 people gathered in the lobby of the solar-heated Plant Science Building to hear people who have been closely associated with the Arboretum since its founding discuss facets of the first decade's progress.

In reminiscing about her friendship with Mary Flagler Cary, Mrs. L. Lee Stanton described Mrs. Cary as being "tall, blonde, shy and formal," and as a "woman who always had a quick smile, and who was passionately fond of this property and its trees..."

Former New York Botanical Garden President Dr. William Steere explained the course of events that led to the signing of a formal agreement between the Cary Trust and the New York Botanical Garden in August, 1971...

New York Botanical Garden Senior Vice President Carlton Lees described Mrs. Cary's land as "jewel-like in its ability to fit the educational, horticultural, and scientific needs of an arboretum..."

Cary Arboretum Horticulturist Robert S. Hebb explained the plant collections of the Arboretum, noting that our intentions are to have the trees blend into the surrounding environment so well that "it will seem as though they have been there all along." Though acquired for study, they will also exist for pleasure...

Arboretum Assistant Director Dr. Thomas Elias generated laughter from the audience when he told of his experiences in setting up chemistry laboratories and teaching facilities in renovated farm-houses...

Dr. James Hester, New York Botanical Garden President, reviewed the commitments of the New York Botanical Garden

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Senator Moynihan Visits Arboretum

Arboretum Director Dr. Willard Payne and Senator Moynihan tour the mechanical room of the Plant Science Building. Photo: Bernard Heyman

Concern was expressed by Senator Daniel Moynihan for the possible effects on Arboretum activities of government cutbacks in an October 10 reception at the Arboretum's Plant Science Building.

The reception, given by the Dutchess County Democratic Committee, brought together over 120 supporters of the United States Senator from New York.

During a tour through the solar-heated building with Director Willard Payne and Assistant Director Thomas Elias, the Senator showed much interest in several of the projects under way at the Arboretum, including the foreign scientist exchange program, now in its seventh year.

"Senator Moynihan's support of American science and education is much appreciated," said Dr. Payne. "If they are strong, the Arboretum and the people of New York will all benefit."

Ten Years Toward Excellence

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and its Cary Arboretum to public service, and described the important roles these institutions will play in the future of American science...

Dr. Willard W. Payne, Arboretum Director, moderated the events of October 18, a day of celebration for the Arboretum's tenth anniversary, and briefly reviewed major accomplishments in fields of advanced education.

To recognize their years of efforts to protect the environment, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Seeger were presented with a lifetime membership to the Arboretum. In making the presentation, Dr. Payne reminded the audience of the importance of having in our communities sensitive, receptive people like Toshi and Pete Seeger who demonstrate in everything they do the vital need for human beings to interact gently and positively with the Earth and with one another. With banjo in hand, the well-known performer sang a folk song which, in many ways, reflected these concerns.

Exhibits, displays, tours and films were included in the day's celebration. Feature articles in the *Millbrook Round Table, Poughkeepsie Journal* and *The New York Times* drew visitors from New York City, New Jersey and Westchester County to learn and celebrate with the Arboretum staff in a setting of beautiful autumn foliage.

In her discussion on Mary Flagler Cary, Mrs. Stanton noted the enthusiasm Mary would have for her land if she could see it today. "Mary Cary would be proud of what is being done here," she said, and in a sing-along with Pete Seeger, perhaps many were singing to Mary with proud thanks for the Cary Arboretum.

State Awards $11,000 for Gypsy Moth Research

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has recently contracted with the Cary Arboretum to study the relationships between the gypsy moth and its habitat.

According to Chemical Ecologist Dr. Clive Jones, who will supervise the project, insufficient data exists on the relationships between the gypsy moth and vegetation it feeds on. Immediate goals of this research are to determine what these relationships are and use them to predict where the gypsy moth will be most destructive.

The study, which will be conducted between November 1981 and October 1982, will involve setting up twenty test plots in the Canoe Hills of the Arboretum grounds extending through elevational and vegetation gradients. Vegetation data will be collected on the basis of species composition, distribution and size of trees occuring in each test plot. Gypsy moth variables, such as egg masses, egg parasites, larvae and larval diseases, will also be analyzed. To record the gypsy moth defoliation process, sequential photographs of tree canopies will be taken.

"If we wish to know where the gypsy moth will be a problem, and if we want to manage land to minimize the impact of gpysy moth, we must understand the relationship between the insect and the plants on which it feeds," said Dr. Jones.

Make A Wreath!

Registration is still open for an assortment of Christmas decoration workshops which promise to stir the holiday spirit in anyone who takes them.

Taught by members of Millbrook's Nine Partners Garden Club, all workshops will be offered at the Gifford House Education and Visitor Center, Route 44A (Sharon Turnpike).

Learn to make a large wired pinecone wreath during three weekly sessions beginning November 16, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Forms, wire, tape and cones will be supplied.

On November 21, a workshop on how to make an advent wreath will be offered between 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Materials (except candles and wire cutters) will be provided.

Also on November 21, learn to make flowers of dried corn husks to accessorize your Thanksgiving and Christmas decors. The course is taught between 9:30 and noon, and materials will be supplied.

On December 5, a 2½ hour workshop will be taught on the construction techniques of an evergreen wreath with materials included, this class begins at 1:00 p.m.

Also on December 5, a workshop will be taught on how to make a holiday table centerpiece in several basic designs. Cones, greens, wires, forms and tape will be provided.

Learn to make a tree-shaped table decoration December 12, 1:00 to 3:30 pm. The tree will be constructed on a hardware cloth base which will be permanent and can be redecorated each year. Supplies included.

For more information, or to register, please call Mrs. Marcia Davis at (914) 677-5358.

Shop Talk

by Sandy Reilly, Plant Shop Manager

If you visit the Arboretum's Gift and Plant Shop for its annual Christmas sale on December 6, 1 to 5 p.m., you will no doubt see many poinsettias – the traditional Christmas plant.

The poinsettia was introduced in 1825 when Joel Poinsett, the U.S. Minister to Mexico, brought cuttings of this short-lived, rather lanky shrub to the United States. Hybridizing techniques have extended the plant's longevity, and today we see the poinsettia in many sizes, and in colors of pink, white and even speckled varieties and bicolors.

Our Plant Shop, located in the Gifford House Education and Visitor Center, Route 44A, will be filled with all sizes of poinsettias, including hanging baskets during and after the December 6 sale. We will also have other Christmas favorites such as Christmas cactus, gloxinias, Reiger begonias, kalanchoe, and many lovely foliage plants for gift giving and holiday decorating. All plants will be discounted 20% for "Friends of the Arboretum," and 10% for the general public.

The Arboretum's Gift Shop, also located in the Gifford House, will offer an assortment of gift items found in the New York Botanical Garden's gift catalog, including posters, gardening items, soaps and much more. Glassware from the Plumb Hill Studio, as well as stained glass ornaments and a wide selection of books on botany, alternative energy and horticulture, will be for sale.

At the Garden

Through early December, the New York Botanical Garden's beautiful Enid A. Haupt Conservatory in the Bronx will feature a chrysanthemum show including Japanese and late flowering mums.

December 4 is the opening day for the annual holiday show in the Conservatory, where poinsettias, kalanchoe and other Christmas plants decorate the Crystal Palace through late winter.

On December 18 through 20, visit the Garden for its annual Christmas Plant Sale in the Shop-in-the-Garden – sure to be a one-stop-shop for any gardeners and botanists on holiday shopping lists.

Notice

All Cary Arboretum Nature Trails will be closed during deer hunting season, November 16 through December 8.

Text and photographs by Robin Parow-Place

Wildlife Department News

Deer Fence Testing at Rachelwood

In an effort to test the effectiveness of deer fence designs, members of the Wildlife Department recently spent three weeks at the Rachelwood Wildlife Research Preserve in Ligonier, Pennsylvania.

The 6,000-acre preserve provided an opportunity for concentrated observations, due to the high population of deer on the grounds. "In one week alone, 564 deer approaches were recorded at a test fence, which allowed us to monitor their interactions with the fences and see exactly what happens when deer contact the fence," reports Arboretum Coordinator of Wildlife Resources Jay McAninch.

During the three weeks, temporary fencing was erected, including the slanted design used at the Arboretum and a low-profile fence used on one to two-acre plots. The Arboretum team studied closely the deer's response to the physical barriers with and without electric shock and noted that after the initial contact with an electric slanted fence, some tended to avoid the fence completely. Such observations may lead to new knowledge of deer behavior and the uses of physical barriers as deer deterrents.

The Rachelwood Wildlife Research Preserve is maintained by the Richard K. Mellon Foundation, Pittsburgh.

Deer Management Evaluation Program

A project to evaluate ongoing deer management programs in New York apple orchards and vineyards has been funded by the Department of Agriculture and Markets, and will be conducted by Dale May, a recent Masters degree recipient from the University of Maine.

Mr. May, who as an undergraduate student at the University of Connecticut worked at the Arboretum in 1978 to study the winter habitat utilization of white-tailed deer, will make survey assessments on damage to apple orchards, evaluate how much money is being spent to control deer, and evaluate the effectiveness of deer control programs and how apple growers benefit from them.

The project will be conducted through April of 1982, with renewal expected through 1984. The initial grant is in the amount of $10,000.

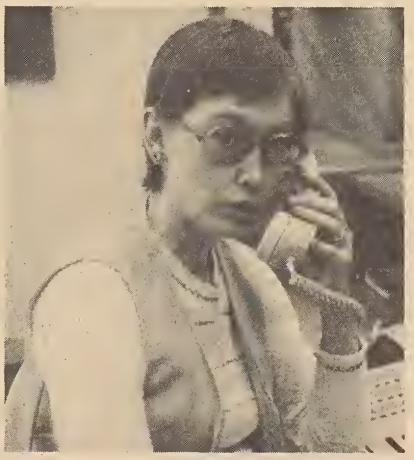
Vole Control

The Northeast Fruit Council, along with several chemical companies that produce rodenticides, has recently granted the Arboretum $10,000 for a comparison study for controlling pine and meadow voles with rodenticides in apple orchards.

"Although cultural management practices work well," says Jay McAninch, "most growers need a bait program for damage prevention in hard-to-manage areas."

The baits tested over the next 4 months will be targeted for voles only, and should contribute to solutions to the overall vole management problems experienced by the Hudson Valley fruit industry.

People at the Arboretum



Faith Bennett, Receptionist ... When an article appeared last year in a local newspaper on the volunteer program at Cary, Faith first became interested in the possibility of working at the Arboretum.

Through Arboretum Volunteer Coordinator, Mrs. Marcia Davis, Faith learned of a position badly needing to be filled in the Arboretum's Plant Science Building. After a brief volunteer orientation program, attended also by prospective volunteers who would later work in the greenhouse, gift shop, and other areas of the Arboretum, Faith became a volunteer receptionist/switchboard operator in the beautiful solar-heated headquarters of the Arboretum.

Originally from Clinton, a small town near Utica, New York, Faith has two younger sisters with whom she shared childhood interests in ice skating, tennis, bike riding and especially archery.

Faith and her husband George, who have been married for 15 years, met while she was majoring in elementary education with a minor in biology at SUNY New Paltz. Upon graduation, she accepted a position with BOCES where she worked for 13 years as a secretary and in the business office.

In 1975, stricken by multiple sclerosis, Faith took up such hobbies as baking, knitting and sewing. Most recently, the Cary Arboretum has provided an outlet for her ceaseless energy, where she meets new people each day and uses her excellent secretarial skills.

"It is a pleasure to have such a delightful person to greet our visitors," reports Arboretum Director Dr. Willard Payne. "Faith is a devoted volunteer who not only gives her time but brings contagious enthusiasm to the staff members she works with."

During her 14 hours a week at the Arboretum, Faith also types for the Horticulture and Public Relations Departments, insisting "I'm here to work, so keep me busy!" Her background in Latin provides insight to much of the typing she does for the Horticulture Department, which includes plant lists and cards for the Arboretum's files.

"I intend to stay at Cary," she says, "as long as there is work for me. I enjoy being here, and am grateful that the Arboretum exists."

Book Reviews

by Betsy Calvin, Librarian

Winter is upon us, even though the season will not officially begin for another month. There is still time to prepare your home for winter, whether you are interested in installing a wood burning stove or a solar water heater, or adding insulation. The following books from the Arboretum's library are recommended for information and how-to techniques.

Advice on purchasing and operating wood stoves can be found in Wilburn Newcomb's *Wood Stove Handbook,* Mary Twitchell's *Wood Energy – A Practical Guide to Heating with Wood,* and *The Wood Burning Stove Book* and *Fire Place Stoves, Hearths and Insets,* both by Geri Harrington. The latter book also discusses the pros and cons of coal burning stoves. For those people with access to large woodlots, Maurice Cohen's *The Woodcutter's Companion* is a good source of information on cutting, transporting, and storing wood. Jay Shelton's *Wood Heat Safety* will guide owners of wood heating systems on the correct installation, operation and maintenance of their stoves.

Three excellent tests in this collection discuss coal heating systems: John Bartok's *Heating with Coal,* Peter Hotton's *Coal Comfort – An Alternative Way to Heat Your House,* and Steve Sherman's *Home Heating with Coal.*

Solar energy books include Bruce Anderson's *The Solar Home Book,* Stu Campbell's *Build Your Own Solar Water Heater,* and *How to Buy Solar Heating... Without Getting Burnt* by Malcolm Wells and Irwin Spetgang. For those interested in general renovation or building energy-efficient houses, look up some of the following: Donald Watson's *Designing and Building a Solar House, From the Ground Up* by John Cole and Charles Wing, *From the Walls In* by Charles Wing, *Home Energy How-To* by A. J. Haud, and

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Nature Photographs on Display Through November 30

Seasonal landscapes and designs in nature are among the subjects documented in a photographic display currently on exhibit in the Arboretum's Plant Science Building, Route 44A, Millbrook.

The photographer, Gary W. Griffen of Rhinebeck, is well known for his films, including the award-winning "Building in the Sun," which artistically depicts the construction of the Arboretum's solar-heated Plant Science Building.

Mr. Griffen has photographed for Time-Life, *Quick* magazine (the *Life* magazine of Europe), AT & T, and Milton-Bradley, among others.

His exhibit at the Arboretum, which is a Hudson Valley Arts Festival event, runs through November 30. It will include color and black-and-white photos in which Mr. Griffen presents a microcosmic window into nature's complex forms and shapes.

Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Book Reviews

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Building the Solar Home by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. For those interested in learning more about wind-power systems, there is Donald Marier's *Wind Power for the Homeowner.* Finally, for the person with an ambition to save more money at the gas pump, there is Fred Stetson's *Making Your Own Motor Fuel with Home and Farm Alcohol Stills.*

These books are available for loan from the Arboretum's circulating collection. Many more energy texts are available for use in the library from the separate research collection. Hours for the library are 9-12, 1-4, Monday through Friday.

Christmas Tree Exhibit at P.S.B.

Trees decorated with natural ornaments will be on display December 6 through December 31 in the Arboretum's solar-heated Plant Science Building.

The building's lobby will come alive when holiday festivities begin at 1:30 December 6 with the debut of the Christmas tree display through 4:30. Refreshments will be served.

Local garden clubs and individuals will take part in this educational exhibition of natural decorations. Herbs, gourds, nuts, corn husks, rose hips, oriental persimmon, sea shells and feathers are among the potential ingredients that will be used in the displays.

Visiting hours to the Christmas tree exhibit are Monday through Friday, 3:30 am to 4:30 pm and Sundays, 1:30 to 3:30 pm.

The annual pre-Christmas plant and gift sale in the Gifford House will also take place on December 6, from 1 to 5 pm. Come to warm the Christmas spirit!

Enter the Winter Slide Contest!

Congratulations to Melissa Kraycir and Dave Bankowski, both of Poughkeepsie, who were winners in the Arboretum's summer photographic slide contest.

The winter slide contest, open to Arboretum Friends, volunteers, staff and the general public, extends from December 15 through March 1.

A cash prize of $50.00 will be awarded for the best set of ten 35 mm color slides taken on the Arboretum grounds as selected by an independent judge. Cash prizes of $25.00 and $15.00 will be awarded to second and third place entries, respectively.

Plantlife, wildlife, landscapes, people and architectural studies are among the subjects acceptable for the contest. All entries become the property of the Cary Arboretum, and should be originals (not duplicates). Contestants may obtain tax donation slips for non-winning entries if they wish.

One or more groups of slides may be submitted. Each should be carefully labeled as to subject, date and photographer.

Contest Rules

1. Slides submitted must be dated between December 15, 1981 and March 15, 1982.
2. Visitor access rules apply to all photographers. Please stay on internal roads or marked trails when traveling on Arboretum grounds. Road and trail maps can be obtained at the Gifford House Education and Visitor Center, Route 44A (Sharon Turnpike).
3. Submit entries before March 30, 1982 to Robin Parow-Place, c/o Cary Arboretum, Box AB, Millbrook, New York 12545.

   Entries can also be delivered by that date to the Plant Science Building, Route 44A).

For more information, contact Mrs. Place at (914) 677-5343.

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